Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a plunger tip, a plunger rod, and a unitary adapter for ~~cooperatively engaging a plunger tip and a plunger rod for~~ forcing molten metal from a shot sleeve into a die of a die-casting apparatus, said adapter maintaining said plunger tip and said plunger rod in fixed relation to one another, and including ~~comprising~~ a distal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger tip, an opposite proximal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger rod, and a length between said distal end and said proximal end, said adapter being configured to maintain said distal end and said proximal end in fixed relationship with one another, said adapter having at least one passage extending from said proximal end to said distal end to permit the flow of coolant there through, said distal end of said adapter being open to form a portion of a cooling chamber and to permit the coolant to directly contact an interior surface of ~~the~~said plunger tip that forms a portion of ~~the~~said cooling chamber, said adapter being formed of a beryllium-copper alloy to facilitate the transfer of heat from ~~the~~said plunger tip to the coolant passing through said passage of said adapter.
2. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is an axial bore.
3. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 2, wherein said axial bore of said adapter is along a mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter.
4. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is generally uniform in cross section along the length of ~~the~~said adapter.

5. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has an enlarged cross section adjacent said distal end of said adapter.

6. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has a frusto-conical shape adjacent said distal end of ~~the~~said adapter to facilitate the flow of the coolant through said passage and to increase the size of ~~the~~said cooling chamber available to cool ~~the~~said plunger tip.

7. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, further comprising an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger tip and an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger rod.

Claims 8-22 (cancelled).

23. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a plunger tip, a plunger rod, and a unitary adapter ~~for cooperatively engaging a plunger tip and a plunger rod~~ for forcing molten metal from a shot sleeve into a die of a die-casting apparatus, said adapter maintaining said plunger tip and said plunger rod in fixed relation to one another, and including ~~comprising~~ a threaded distal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger tip, an opposite proximal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger rod, and a length between said distal end and said proximal end, said adapter being configured to maintain said distal end and said proximal end in fixed relationship with one another, said adapter having at least one passage extending from said proximal end to said distal end to permit the flow of coolant there through, said adapter being formed of a beryllium-copper alloy to facilitate the transfer of heat from ~~the~~said plunger tip to the coolant passing through said passage of said adapter.

24. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is an axial bore.

25. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 24, wherein said axial bore

of said adapter is along a mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter.

26. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is generally uniform in cross section along the length of ~~the~~said adapter.

27. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has an enlarged cross section adjacent said distal end of said adapter.

28. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has a frusto-conical shape adjacent said distal end of ~~the~~said adapter to facilitate the flow of the coolant through said passage and to increase the size of ~~the~~said cooling chamber available to cool ~~the~~said plunger tip.

29. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, further comprising an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger tip and an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger rod.

30. (currently amended) An assembly comprising a plunger tip, a plunger rod, and a unitary adapter for ~~cooperatively engaging a plunger tip and a plunger rod for~~ forcing molten metal from a shot sleeve into a die of a die-casting apparatus, said adapter maintaining said plunger tip and said plunger rod in fixed relation to one another, and including ~~comprising~~ a distal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger tip, an opposite proximal end adapted to cooperatively engage ~~the~~said plunger rod, and a length between said distal end and said proximal end, said adapter being configured to maintain said distal end and said proximal end in fixed relationship with one another, said adapter having at least one passage extending from said proximal end to said distal end to permit the flow of coolant there through, said adapter having a maximum cross-sectional dimension transverse to the length of said adapter, said distal end having a cross-sectional dimension transverse to the length of said adapter that is less

than said maximum cross-sectional dimension, said distal end having a generally cylindrical cross section along at least a portion of the length, said adapter being formed of a beryllium-copper alloy to facilitate the transfer of heat from ~~the~~said plunger tip to the coolant passing through said passage of said adapter.

31. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is an axial bore.

32. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 31, wherein said axial bore of said adapter is along a mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter.

33. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter is generally uniform in cross section along the length of ~~the~~said adapter.

34. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has an enlarged cross section adjacent said distal end of said adapter.

35. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, wherein said at least one passage of said adapter has a frusto-conical shape adjacent said distal end of ~~the~~said adapter to facilitate the flow of the coolant through said passage and to increase the size of ~~the~~said cooling chamber available to cool ~~the~~said plunger tip.

36. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, further comprising an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger tip and an o-ring between said adapter and ~~the~~said plunger rod.

37. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 1, wherein said adapter has a mid-longitudinal axis, ~~the~~said plunger tip has a mid-longitudinal axis, and ~~the~~said plunger rod has a mid-longitudinal axis, said adapter being configured to fixedly align the mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter with the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger tip and the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger rod.

38. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 23, wherein said adapter

has a mid-longitudinal axis, ~~the~~said plunger tip has a mid-longitudinal axis, and ~~the~~said plunger rod has a mid-longitudinal axis, said adapter being configured to fixedly align the mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter with the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger tip and the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger rod.

39. (currently amended) The assembly ~~adapter~~ of claim 30, wherein said adapter has a mid-longitudinal axis, ~~the~~said plunger tip has a mid-longitudinal axis, and ~~the~~said plunger rod has a mid-longitudinal axis, said adapter being configured to fixedly align the mid-longitudinal axis of said adapter with the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger tip and the mid-longitudinal axis of ~~the~~said plunger rod.

Claim 40-43 (cancelled).